

Consumer Reports Health BEST BUY DRUGS

Free Guidance for Consumers on Prescription Medicines



NEWS UPDATE

ConsumerReportsHealth.org/BestBuyDrugs

Drug Safety

[Gardasil: Parents' safety concerns not consistent with evidence](#)

Should young women be exposed to potential risks from a vaccine that protects against cervical cancer — a disease that she may get 20 to 40 years from now? Or should young men be vaccinated with it to prevent genital warts?

Gardasil is a vaccine that prevents infection from four types of human papilloma virus (HPV) — the most common sexually transmitted virus in the U.S. Those four types cause most cases of cervical cancer and genital warts.

Recently, complaints have emerged about the marketing and cost of Gardasil, and some parents have raised concerns about its safety. A new report by the FDA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found that serious complications had occurred, although most side effects appear to be consistent with those of other vaccines. For more detail and information on how to make a decision, [read on](#).

[Seroquel XR approved for depression, but should you take it?](#)

Antidepressants can be a lifeline for the 18 million Americans a year who suffer from depression. Yet more than half of the people who take those medications continue to suffer stubborn depressive symptoms.

Several antipsychotic medications have become popular as "add-on" medications to treat depression. Three of them — aripiprazole (Abilify), olanzapine (combined with an antidepressant and sold as Symbyax) and now the long-acting form of quetiapine (Seroquel XR) — recently gained FDA approval for the treatment of depression that hasn't responded to an antidepressant alone. But these drugs pose some serious safety issues. So how do you know whether quetiapine would be an effective [addition to help you better manage your depression?](#)

New Best Buy Drugs Report

[Drugs to Treat Nausea, Vomiting](#)

People who receive chemotherapy and radiation treatments for cancer may face two unpleasant side effects: nausea and vomiting. Both are common, and if they are not controlled, they can lead to dehydration and weight loss, and may interfere with treatments. To help curb this reaction, a class of medicines, called 5-HT3 antagonists, may help settle the stomach.

Our latest analysis of this drug class finds that the three oral drugs used to treat nausea and vomiting — Dolasetron (Anzemet), Granisetron (Kytril and generic) and Ondansetron (Zofran and generic) — are roughly equivalent in effectiveness and safety, and that price was the main difference. We chose the following as *Consumer Reports Best Buy Drugs*:

- **Generic ondansetron tablet**
- **Generic ondansetron dissolvable tablet**

[Read on](#) to understand more about the safety and efficacy of these drugs, and to see if there are non-drug treatments that may also work for you.

For additional information on more than [200 prescription drugs](#), alternatives to high-priced drugs and Best Buy selections for the most common, chronic medical conditions, visit ConsumerReportsHealth.org/BestBuyDrugs.